

SPORTS BRIEFS

Houston Astros beat Cincinnati Reds

PLANT CITY, Fla. (AP) — Only about 100 fans stuck around Monday to see the Cincinnati Reds remain the worst replacement team in spring training.

The winless Reds rallied to tie the game in the ninth inning on Rick Sellers' two-out single, but the Houston Astros went on to win it 9-7 on Tim Evans' two-run single in the 10th inning.

The Reds sold 1,006 tickets to the game at Plant City Stadium, which holds 6,800. The actual attendance was around 300, and only about a third of them stuck around to see the team lose again.

Cincinnati fell to 0-5, the worst record among the 27 teams fielding replacements.

A lack of enthusiasm was evident at the Reds' offices as well as the stands Monday. Coach Ray Knight talked into manager Davey Johnson's office before the game with the lineup card and said, "How's this?"

Johnson, who was eating soup and reading a newspaper, didn't even look at the names before signing the card.

Baseball Hall of Fame candidates chosen

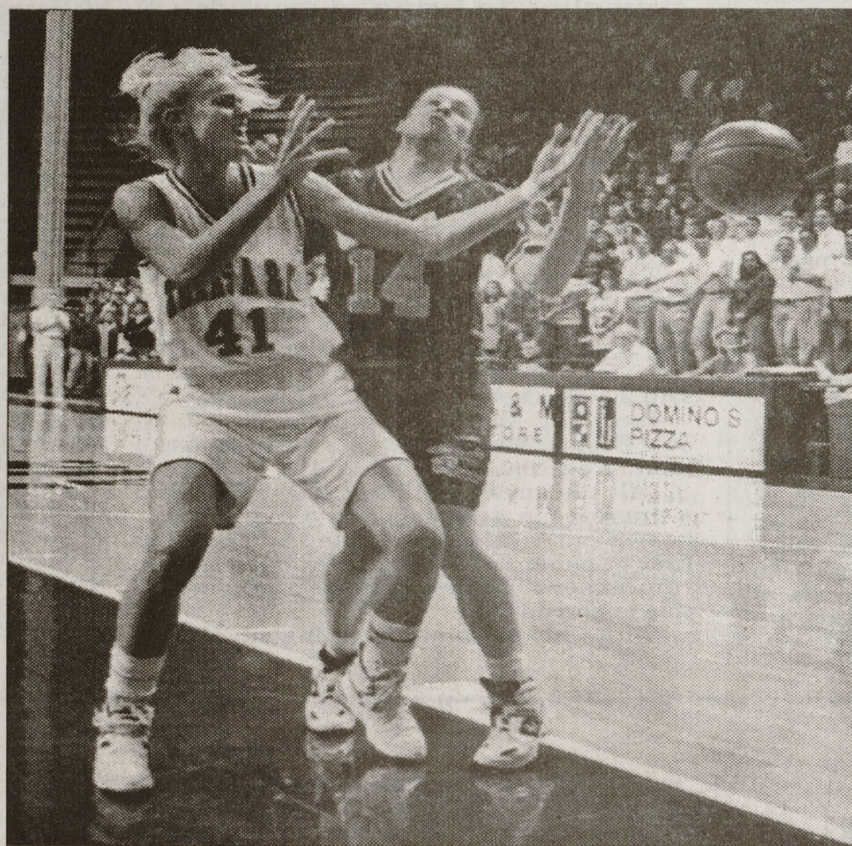
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Richie Ashburn and Larry Doby, who could've played in the same outfield for the Cleveland Indians except for a ruling by Kenesaw Mountain Landis, are considered among the top candidates for election Tuesday to the Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee.

Nellie Fox, Gil Hodges and Negro Leagues star Leon Day also had a chance to be chosen. Hall of Famers Ted Williams, Stan Musial and Yogi Berra are on the 17-member panel that will vote, with 75 percent required for selection.

"It would be a great honor, unquestioned," Ashburn said. "But how could I be optimistic after all these years?"

In an effort to enhance the opportunities for 19th century players and former Negro Leaguers, the committee's rules have been revised for a five-year period. Starting Tuesday, there will be a supplemental election for one player from each of those categories, in addition to the usual two people the panel can pick.

Lady Aggies prepare for SWC tourney



Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

Senior center **Debbie Bierman** reaches for the ball in Saturday's game against Baylor.

□ The team is confident after a successful regular season.

By Jim Anderson
THE BATTALION

Success brings about increased notability. This fact was not lost on the Texas A&M women's basketball team this season.

Last year's appearance in the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 caused increased expectations for the Lady Aggies this year. They met these expectations with mixed results, going 18-8 overall and 9-5 in the Southwest Conference, tied for second with Southern Methodist behind champion Texas Tech.

Coach Candi Harvey was not disappointed at all with the team's results.

"We had a very good season considering the fact that the conference has improved so much from where it was at a couple of years ago," Harvey said. "Everyone played us tough because we were no longer a surprise this year."

Big wins against nationally ranked Texas Tech and rival Texas were balanced out by disappointing losses to SMU and Baylor.

"We had some losses to people

that we shouldn't have lost to," said junior guard Lisa Branch, who lead the Lady Aggies in scoring with 16 points a game. "This was something that hurt us a lot."

However, the team was able to rebound from some early season setbacks and finish strong going into the SWC tournament this Wednesday.

"We played our best game of the year against Baylor last Saturday," Harvey said. "This has us pleased and optimistic about what we will be able to do in the tournament."

The players are confident of the teams chances going into post season action. Junior guard Bambi Ferguson believes that with a few breaks a tournament victory and NCAA Tournament berth are not out of the question.

"We feel that we have the best team in the conference," Ferguson said. "Now we just have to go out on the court and prove that to the teams that we are playing against."

Coach Harvey said despite the second-place finish in the SWC, the team has no reason to feel disappointed.

"We had the second highest win total in school history this year and were ranked the entire season," Harvey said. "This team doesn't need to be ashamed of anything."

Willis swimming into A&M record books

By Robert Rodriguez
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M swimmer Kent Willis wanted to be in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and on the A&M swimming team his whole life. Instead of choosing one, he decided to do both.

Willis, a redshirt freshman from Spring Woods High School in Houston, is in Company E-2 of the A&M Corps of Cadets and also swims distance freestyle for the Aggies.

"The Corps is something I've wanted to do my entire life," Willis said. "Joining the Corps helped me with my grades to get a 3.5 last semester."

Willis has also excelled in the pool. He posted the third-best time in A&M swimming history in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:29.60.

He has also posted the team's season-best times in the 500-yard freestyle and

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Rodman's defensive performance merits MVP honor

Who should be the most valuable player in the NBA this year?

Some say Hakeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets should repeat as MVP

while others say it should be Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal. However, I think the award should go to Mr. Controversy himself, Dennis Rodman of the San Antonio Spurs.

That's right, Dennis Rodman. Now, I know those Houston "Sprockets" fans and you "Shaq-Fu's" out there are cringing about that statement, but I



ROBERT RODRIGUEZ
SPORTSWRITER

honestly believe he deserves the award. Maybe he doesn't produce any offense, but he makes his presence

known on the court. Forget about the many colors on his head or the numerous tattoos found on his body. Just look at what his presence on the court does to the opposing team.

Ask Olajuwon about the rebounding performance Rodman has done on the Rockets this season. Can Hakeem say 57 rebounds in the last two games?

Okay, Rodman averages only 7.0 points per game, but the baskets he does make charges up the team as well as himself emotionally. Shaq and the Magic know about his ability to position himself to score. Can Shaq say game-winning bucket made by Rodman at the buzzer?

So what if Rodman lets his emotions take over his mind sometimes. And yeah, maybe he does get suspended by the team or the league sometimes. But once he gets back on the court, watch out.

Case in point, is the 1995 Spurs team. At the beginning of this season, Rodman was suspended for supposedly throwing an ice bag at Spurs head coach

Bob Hill. Because of the suspension, the Spurs struggled and looked like a team that could maybe sneak into the playoffs.

Once Rodman was reinstated, the Spurs did a complete turn-

Maybe he (Rodman) doesn't produce any offense, but he makes his presence known on the court.

around and now look like the team which will give the defending champion Rockets an early exit in the playoffs. Since Rodman's reinstatement, the Spurs are 32-7, and the Spurs haven't

been beating the Clippers and Timberwolves either.

The Spurs have taken 5 out of 6 games against Houston and already have beaten Orlando once this season. The only

team that really has given Rodman and the Spurs trouble this year is the Dallas Mavericks. The Spurs are 1-2 against the "Mavwrecks", but they still have to play

three more games. Plain and simple, Rodman is a rebounding machine. If someone gets 25 rebounds in one game, it's his career night. Not

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ARTFEST '95 coming soon

Office of Student Life Programs

Commuter Students drop in for free breakfast

Breakfast hosted by Sarn's Club

Wednesday, March 8
anytime between
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Governance Room
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Will be interviewing
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Tuesday, March 7th
MSC Foyer
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ATTENTION ALL RESIDENCE HALL STUDENTS!!!

OPEN FORUM ON HOUSING RENT INCREASE...

DATE: Tuesday, March 7

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: "The Forum"
Where else?
(Located adjacent to Rudder Theatre on the first floor)

WHY: To explain why there will be a rent increase for 1995-96

All Residence Hall Students are invited to attend.